

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 27, 1845.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PEARCE made the following

REPORT :

[To accompany resolution S. 26.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of Lieutenant J. Melville Gilliss, of the United States navy, report :

That upon the organization of the exploring expedition in 1838, under Lieutenant Wilkes, he suggested to the Navy Department that a series of astronomical and other observations should be made at Boston and Washington during the absence of that expedition, and in connexion with it.

On the 13th of August, 1838, Lieutenant Gilliss was charged with the performance of this duty at the depot of charts in Washington, and continued to be so charged till the return of the expedition, in 1842. During this period, Lieutenant Gilliss himself took about ten thousand astronomical observations. The magnetic and meteorological observations were about twenty-five thousand each, and were made by him and his assistants.

Lieutenant Gilliss was compelled to rent a house in the neighborhood of the depot, in order to be always near the scene of his labors. These labors averaged 12 hours a day during the whole time, and he was frequently on his feet 20 hours in 24. There was one week in every month during the four years that he was thus employed, when his duties required him to be up all night.

Mr. Paulding, the former Secretary of the Navy, states that the additional duties imposed upon Lieutenant Gilliss "a great accession of labor, and required scientific attainments of no ordinary degree;" and accordingly he has no hesitation in saying that Lieutenant Gilliss would be fully entitled to additional compensation, if the law permitted.

The act of the last session gave additional compensation to the officers *attached* to the exploring expedition, who were engaged in the performance of scientific duties, but not to officers employed on such duties in connexion with that expedition. The committee, concurring in opinion with the late Secretary Paulding, recommend that a similar allowance be made to Lieutenant Gilliss. They report a resolution accordingly.

IN SENATE ON THE UNITED STATES

February 27, 1845

Submitted, and ordered to be printed

Mr. Tappan made the following

REPORT

On a bill to amend an act to provide for the

... on Naval Affairs, to which was referred the memorial
of the United States Navy, report
... the organization of the exploring expedition in 1838, made
... he suggested to the Navy Department that a series of
... and other observations should be made at Boston and Wash-
... the absence of that expedition, and in connection with
... of August, 1838, Lieutenant Gillies was charged with the
... at the depot of charts in Washington, and con-
... the return of the expedition, in 1842, during
... himself took about ten thousand astronomical
... The magnetic and meteorological observations were
... and were made by him and his assistants
... to rent a house in the neighborhood
... near the scene of his labors. Those labors
... a day during the whole time, and he was frequently on
... in every month during the
... when his duties required him to be
... the night.
... the former Secretary of the Navy, states that the addi-
... upon Lieutenant Gillies, a great accession of labor
... of no extraordinary nature, and accordingly
... that Lieutenant Gillies would be fully en-
... if the law permitted.
... additional compensation to the officers
... who were engaged in the performance
... but not to officers employed on such duties in connection
... expedition. The committee, concerning inquiries with the late
... that a slight allowance be made to Lieut-
... report a resolution accordingly.